

Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

50 Nature Phrases

Dear English Learner,

Get ready to speak confidently! I recommend reading the worksheet out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question. [Click here to watch the original video](#). Thanks so much for learning English with me!

*Your teacher,
Vanessa*

Words to Describe Big Features of Nature

1. Forest: *a large area covered mostly with trees and undergrowth*

The trees in the **forest** were so tall, I couldn't see the sky.

2. Jungle: *a large area in the tropics, covered in dense trees and undergrowth*

On our trip to Costa Rica, we went on some hikes through the **jungle**.

3. Fjord: *a long, narrow, deep inlet of the sea between high cliffs*

When my kids get older, I want to take them on a trip to see the **fjords** of Norway.

4. Canyon: *a deep, narrow valley with steep sides and (usually) a river running through it*

I have never visited the Grand **Canyon**, but I flew over it in an airplane—it's huge!

5. River/Stream/Creek: *bodies of water that run or flow into a larger body of water*

We have a **stream** or **creek** in our backyard, and the kids love to look for fish, frogs, bugs, and pretty rocks.

6. Lake: *a large body of water surrounded by land*

When I was growing up, my family spent a lot of time at the **lake**—fishing, swimming, even water skiing/wakeboarding/tubing!

7. Ocean: *a large body of saltwater that covers three fourths of the earth's surface*

The **ocean** is so large that we haven't even explored it all yet. It's as unknown to us as outer space!

8. Mountains: *a large landform that rises above the surrounding area*

It is a goal of mine to visit all the tallest **mountains** in my country.

9. Beach: *where the ocean meets land, typically sandy or rocky*

When you go to the **beach**, make sure you bring sunscreen and a towel.

10. Desert: *a large area of land, usually with sand, that has very little water or vegetation*

Something that I want to experience is riding a camel across the **desert**.

Words to Describe Beautiful Nature

11. Breathtaking: *when something is so beautiful, it takes your breath away*

The view from the top of the mountain of the valley down below was **breathtaking**.

12. Refreshing: *something new or different that gives you strength or energy*

When I need a break from work, I like to take a walk outside and get some fresh air and sunshine. It's so **refreshing**!

13. Flourishing: *when something develops quickly and successfully; thriving*

I always love to see how some plants **flourish** after a wildfire.

14. Evergreen: *plants and foliage that stay green year-round*

I like taking walks in this area because there are a lot of **evergreens** and even when it's hot in the summer, there is a lot of shade.

15. Verdant: *a bright green color, like you would see with rich grass and other vegetation*

The valley looks so **verdant** in the springtime—everything is so green!

16. Crisp: *when the weather is pleasantly fresh, cold, and dry*

I love going to the mountains for the scenery and the **crisp**, clean air.

17. Pristine: *something that is clean, fresh, and not polluted*

This is my favorite place to camp because every time I am here, it's **pristine**—there's no litter and it's always quiet.

18. Lush: *in nature, rich with vegetation*

The jungle in Costa Rica is **lush** with all kinds of trees, flowers, and fruit.

19. Majestic: *beautiful, powerful, and causing feelings of admiration or respect*

The view of the ocean from the top of the cliff was **majestic**.

20. Sweeping: *extending over a wide range*

From where we are on the mountain, I have a **sweeping** view of the entire valley.

Words to Describe Problems with Nature

21. Environmental issues: *the harmful effects that human can have on nature, including pollution, overpopulation, and climate change*

I am concerned about **environmental issues** like pollution and climate change because I want my children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy nature.

22. Flood: *when a large amount of water overflows its normal boundaries*

Every spring, there is heavy rain that sometimes leads to a **flood**.

23. Drought: *a lack of rain over a long period of time*

The farmers lost their crops because there was a **drought**—it didn't rain for over 100 days.

24. Pollution: *a chemical or substance that has harmful or poisonous effects*

To cut back on **pollution**, we walk or ride our bikes as much as possible.

25. Endangered/extinction: *something that is at risk of no longer existing; something that no longer exists*

Many animals are **endangered** and will become **extinct** if nothing is done to save them.

26. Habitat loss: *when a species loses its natural habitat as a result of natural or (most commonly) man-made destruction*

Tigers and elephants are two animals that are impacted by **habitat loss**.

27. Loss of biodiversity: *the loss of various types of life (plants, animals, fungi) in an area that causes an imbalance*

Overfishing and pollution are two big factors in the **loss of biodiversity**.

28. Invasive: *a plant or animal that is brought in and causes harm to that environment*

Feral hogs are an **invasive** species in the United States. They destroy farmland and cause erosion and deforestation.

29. Erosion: *when earth is worn away by wind or water*

Cutting down trees can cause **erosion** because the roots hold the soil in place.

30. Wildfires: *when an unplanned fire burns out of control in a rural area, destroying vegetation and habitat*

The recent **wildfire** in Canada was so large that we could see the smoke in the air where I live in the US!

Verbs to Describe Nature

31. To Plant: *to place a seed, bulb, or root in the ground so that it can grow*

Our family loves maple trees so much that we decided to **plant** one in our yard.

32. To Grow: *when something develops, increasing and changing in size*

Every year, we take a family picture with our tree to see how much both the tree and our kids have **grown** over the year.

33. To Rot: *when something dead starts to break down or decay*

Mushrooms and moss like to grow on trees that are **rotting**.

34. To Hibernate: *when plants or animals spend the winter in a dormant state; it's like everything gets paused for the season*

Before bears **hibernate**, they spend the summer and fall eating and getting really fat. Then they sleep through the winter!

35. To Flower: *when a plant produces flowers or blooms*

I love when the tulips start to **flower** in the spring—they're so bright and colorful!

36. To Pollinate: *to move pollen among plants, allowing fertilization and the production of seeds*

Birds, bees, and other animals help **pollinate** plants and crops.

37. To Forage: *to search for food*

Where I live, we have to be very careful with our trash because bears like to **forage** for food and it can be dangerous for them.

38. To Regenerate: *when a living organism regrows tissue as a result of loss*

If you cut off a section of some plants, it can **regenerate** into a whole new plant.

39. To Babble: *this is a type of sound that people, especially babies make; it's also used to describe the sound of running water, like in a stream*
I love falling asleep to the sound of a **babbling** stream when I go camping.

40. Blowing in the breeze: *the swaying motion and swishing sound that the wind makes when it moves through things like tall grass and trees*
At our house, we like to hang windchimes and pinwheels that **blow in the breeze**.

Words to Describe Small Features of Nature

41. Petals: *the colorful leaves surrounding the middle of a flower*
In the United States, it is a tradition for someone, usually called a “flower girl” to scatter flower **petals** down the aisle before the bride walks down it.

42. Stem: *the part of the plant that supports the leaves, flowers, and fruit and transports water and nutrients from the roots to the rest of the plant*
Roses are beautiful flowers but watch out for thorns on the **stem**!

43. Trunk: *the thick base of a tree*
The **trunk** of the old tree was so wide that I couldn't reach my arms around it.

44. Bark: *the thick, woody skin of a tree*
You can identify trees by the type of **bark** they have—is it smooth or rough? What kind of pattern does it make?

45. Branch: *a part of a tree that grows out from the trunk*
I tried to climb the tree, but I couldn't make it to the first **branch**.

46. Leaves/Needles: *the parts of a plant that are usually green and on the ends of branches; leaves are typically broad and flat, needles look like, you guessed it, green needles*
In the fall, **leaves** turn red, orange and gold, but **needles** stay green.

47. Acorns/pinecones: *these are two types of seeds from some very common trees in North America. Acorns are the seeds of oak trees and pinecones are the seed pods of pine trees.*

We went out in the woods to gather **acorns** and **pinecones** for an art project.

48. Blades of grass: *a single, long narrow leaf of the plant grass*

My son watched the bug crawling on the **blade of grass**.

49. Moss: *a very small green or yellow plant that grows in wet earth or on rocks, walls, and tree trunks*

Moss is very soft and squishy, it almost feels like carpet when you walk on it.

50. Rocks/stones/Pebbles: *a rock is a solid mass of material or collection of minerals; stones are smaller pieces of rocks; pebbles are smaller, smoother bits of rocks*

That big **rock** looks like an animal; this **stone** is perfect for skipping across the water; I think I have a **pebble** in my shoe!

Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **Describe your favorite place to visit in nature. Write a few sentences using vocabulary from this lesson.**

Sample answer: *One of my favorite places to visit in nature is the fjords of Norway. In my opinion, it's a perfect combination of mountains and ocean without dealing with a sandy beach. The view is breathtaking, and the air is so fresh and crisp. The landscape is pristine because there is so little pollution in this part of the country. It is a majestic place, and I can't wait to visit again.*

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